

THE MORTAL Kombat

MARVEL

1

LGY#787

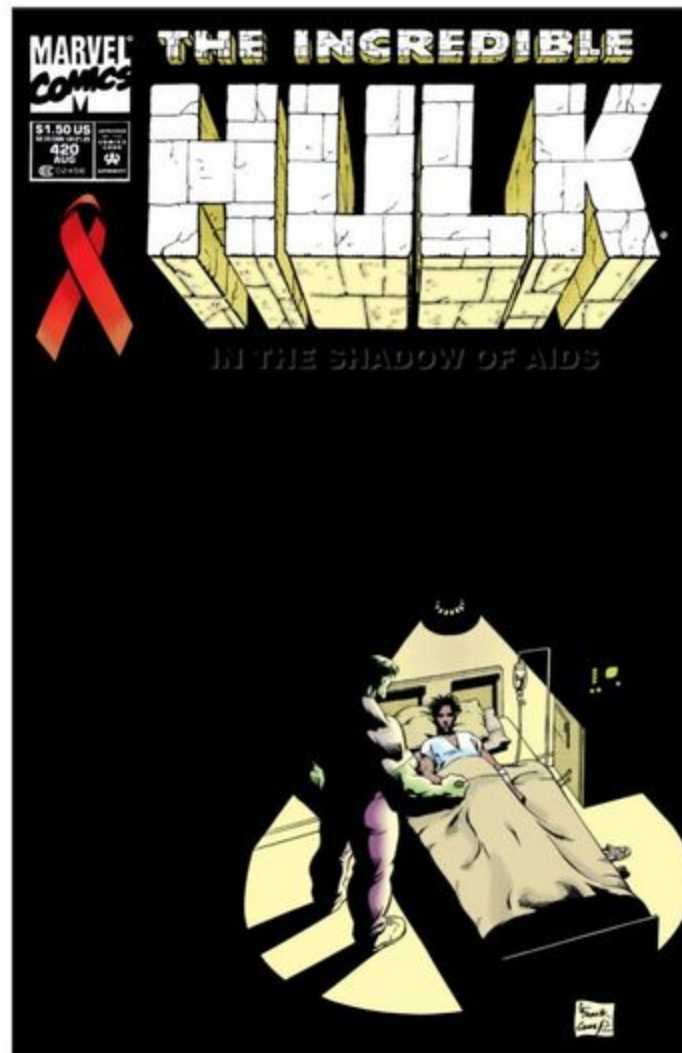
RATED T+



EWING
FERRY
HOLLINGSWORTH

“The only meaningful power is the power we have to help each other. And no power is greater than love, Rick. It’s very cornball. It’s also true.”

— Peter David in *Incredible Hulk* #467



PETER DAVID

1956-2025



“Peter’s Hulk was a green beacon at the point when I was breaking into comics. It seemed to be the one book at Marvel without an ‘X’ on it that really got fans excited. When I came aboard, I couldn’t believe how welcoming and generous Peter was to a young artist with no real track record, and the humanity in his characters became a template for the kind of books I would always want to make.

“Even today, thirty years later, the majority of fans I meet open with, ‘I loved that Peter David run on Hulk.’ Special books. Special writer.”

— Gary Frank

“Peter was always thinking around corners. Whenever he got a new assignment, his approach would be, ‘Okay, what does everyone expect from this series? Great, let’s do something else.’ And he’d show you a different angle, a different approach, that would suddenly illuminate the characters in a whole new way. He wasn’t an ‘Everything you know is wrong’ guy, but he was definitely an ‘Okay, what else?’ guy. And it worked—for him, for the books, for his legion of readers. He’d give you something no one else could.”

— Kurt Busiek

Marvel is saddened by the passing of Peter David, an incredible writer whose talents affected every part of the comics world and beyond.

David’s twelve-year run on *Incredible Hulk* was remarkable not only for its length, but also for the depth of ideas, innovations and clever writing. His influence on the character has extended through the years and from page to screen.

He created Spider-Man 2099, one of the first multiversal Spider-Men, and wrote three smart, charming and character-focused *X-Factor* runs. He brought his talents to the rest of the comics industry, including DC’s *Young Justice*, *Aquaman* and *Supergirl*. He has

written many shelves’ full of novels, from his own *Sir Apropos of Nothing* to many groundbreaking Star Trek novels. His column for the *Comics Buyer’s Guide*, “But I Digress,” gave insights into the comic book industry for more than a decade.

On television, he was the co-creator of *Space Cases* and wrote episodes of *Babylon 5*. He also wrote the films *Oblivion* (1994) and two entries in the *Trancers* series. He has won numerous awards, including an Eisner, an Inkpot, a *Wizard* Fan Award and a GLAAD Media Award.

He is survived by his wife Kathleen and his children Shana, Gwen, Ariel and Caroline.

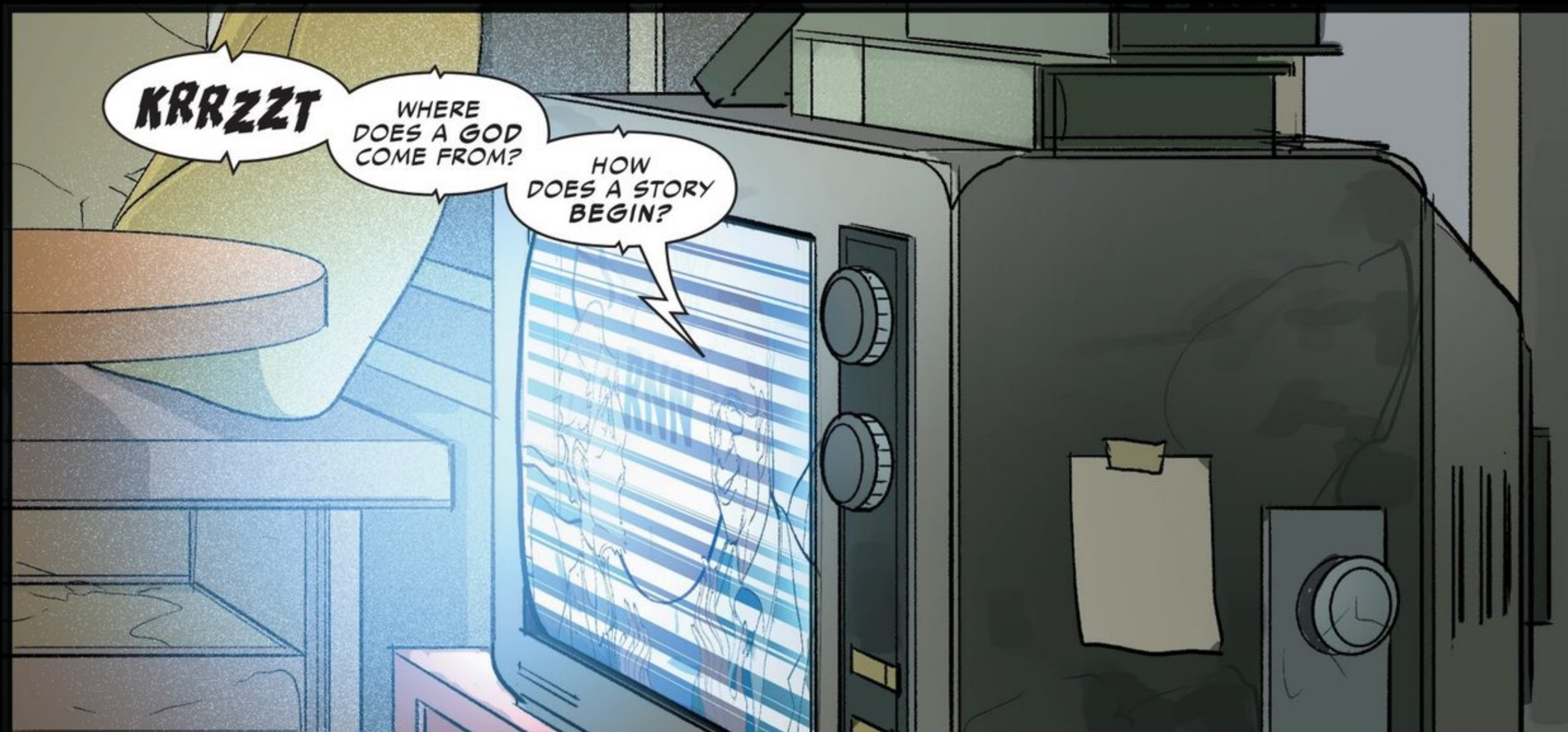
**“LONGER THAN ALL WAS THAT ONE NIGHT,
WHEN STIFF ON MY STRAW I LAY;
THEN BECOMES MANIFEST THE DIVINE WORD:
‘MAN IS THE SAME AS EARTH.’”**

**- FROM “THE SONG OF THE SUN,”
THE ELDER EDDAS OF SAEMUND SIGFUSSON**



WHO
ARE YOU?
HUH?

WHO
THE HELL
ARE YOU?



KRRZZT

WHERE
DOES A GOD
COME FROM?

HOW
DOES A STORY
BEGIN?



FOR THE
ANSWER, WE'RE
TALKING TO PROFESSOR
ERIC TELLER, WHOSE
DOCUSERIES ORIGINS
OF THE GODS DEBUTS
TONIGHT ON ROXX
CULTURE.

SO, PROF--
WHERE DO GODS
COME FROM?



WELL,
MYTHS AND
LEGENDS ORIGINATE
IN VARIOUS
WAYS.

DISTORTIONS
OF HISTORICAL
EVENTS, ATTEMPTS TO
EXPLAIN NATURAL
PHENOMENA...



AND IN THE
CASE OF THE
GREEK GODS,
THEY JUST
TURN UP!

HA! YES,
WHEN SOMEONE
CALLING HIMSELF
HERCULES CAN
LIFT A BUS, IT'S
PERSUASIVE.



BUT THERE *IS*
ROOM FOR DOUBT.
WE KNOW OF ALIEN
BEINGS *INSPIRED* BY
MYTH, FOR
EXAMPLE.

LIKE
THAT FELLOW
WITH THE HAMMER...
THE FOUNDING
AVENGER...



BETA RAY
BILL?

BETA
RAY BILL!
THANK YOU!



PFFT.

INGENTING
VERDT Å SE
PÅ TV.

JEG
BURDE LAGE
FROKOST...

ACTUALLY,
THAT'S NEWS
TO ME, PROFESSOR.
BETA RAY BILL WAS
INSPIRED BY HUMAN
MYTHOLOGY?

REMEMBER, HE
USED TO CONTROL
THUNDER AND LIGHTNING
USING A HAMMER. AND
IN THE NORSE EDDAS,
THERE'S A MAJOR DEITY
WHO DOES THE
SAME THING.



IT'S ACTUALLY
WHERE WE GET
ONE OF THE DAYS OF
THE WEEK FROM--
THURSDAY.



SO YOU
THINK MAYBE
BILL MET THIS
GUY BACK IN THE
DAY, OR...?



OH, NO. I
WASN'T TRYING
TO SUGGEST THE
NORSE MYTHS
WERE EVER
REAL.



THERE'S NO
SUCH PERSON
AS--

FZZT





OH! HELLO, KRISTIN.

I TOLD YOU, IT'S KRIS. WE'RE NEIGHBORS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO FORMAL ALL THE TIME.

HOW'S LIFE IN 325?



A FUSE BLEW. I TRIED TO PLUG IN, AH... VARMEPLATE... THE WARM PLATE?

HOT PLATE. MY AMERICAN IS NOT SO GOOD.

BETTER THAN MY SWEDISH-- WAIT, WAS IT SWEDEN YOU'RE FROM?



NORWAY, I THINK.

YOU THINK...?

MY MEMORY ALSO IS NOT SO GOOD.



I REMEMBER CLEARLY...THREE THINGS ABOUT MYSELF.

FOR FIRST, I KNOW MY NAME IS SIGURD JARLSON.

FOR SECOND, I KNOW I WORK WITH A HAMMER.



AND FOR THIRD, I KNOW NEW YORK IS MY BEST CITY IN THE WORLD!

TOURIST.



SO WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU GOT AMNESIA...?

I THINK IT WAS A FIGHT. I FEEL...I HAVE DONE A LOT OF FIGHTING.

PERHAPS I WAS HIT ON THE HEAD.



SO YOU'RE A BIG GUY FROM EUROPE WHO GETS IN FIGHTS. YOU'VE GOT A VISA, RIGHT...?

I ASSUME SO? I HAVE RENT, I HAVE BILLS WITH MY NAME ON THEM.

I HAVE NO JOB, I DO NOT THINK, BUT TODAY PERHAPS THAT CHANGES.



WELL, BE CAREFUL. YOU SEEM LIKE A GOOD GUY, I DON'T WANT SOMETHING BAD HAPPENING TO YOU...

THANK YOU. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME--TO BE GOOD.

I HAVE LOST ALL ELSE, KRIS. WHAT I HAD. WHO I AM.



BUT IF I CAN BE A GOOD MAN... THAT IS ENOUGH.

THAT WILL BE ENOUGH.



AND AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT A PLACE TO LIVE...

YES! A VERY KIND PERSON FOUND ME WHEN I CAME TO AND HANDED ME MY APARTMENT KEY.

I MUST HAVE DROPPED IT DURING THE... WHATEVER IT WAS.



HUH. YOU'D THINK I'D REMEMBER YOU MOVING IN.

STILL, THAT WAS LUCKY, I GUESS--

YES!





UH, HI.
SORRY,
HAVE WE
MET...?

I OFFERED
YOU A RIDDLE
FOR A DOLLAR ON
THE *SUBWAY*. YOU
GAZED PAST ME
INTO A REALM
UNKNOWN.



OH,
YOU'RE THAT
GUY...

AND OFTEN
I'M THAT
GIRL!

I'VE GOT A
FIVE-DOLLAR
RIDDLE NOW, WHENEVER
YOU'RE READY. ALL
PROCEEDS TO MY
NEXT MEAL.



FINE...

PIN YOUR EARS BACK. THIS
ONE'S FOR ALL MY
SECRETS.

WORSHIPPED
AM I FROM SHORE
TO SHORE, I FORMED
THE WORLD, I MAKE
THE LAW. TO RULERS
I'M THE GUIDING
STAR, BELIEVE MY
TRUTH AND YOU'LL
GO FAR.



WHAT
AM I?

WORSHIPPED...
ARE YOU A
GOD? OR A
GODDESS...?

IN *THESE SHOES*? I
DOUBT IT. YOU WERE
SO CLOSE,
THOUGH.



I'M A
LIE.



EDGY STUFF. VERY PUNK.

THANKS! AND HOW'S YOUR DAY GOING, SIGURD?

I SAW A JOB ON A TELEPHONE POLE.



THEY NEED **CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**, AND I REMEMBER BEING THAT.

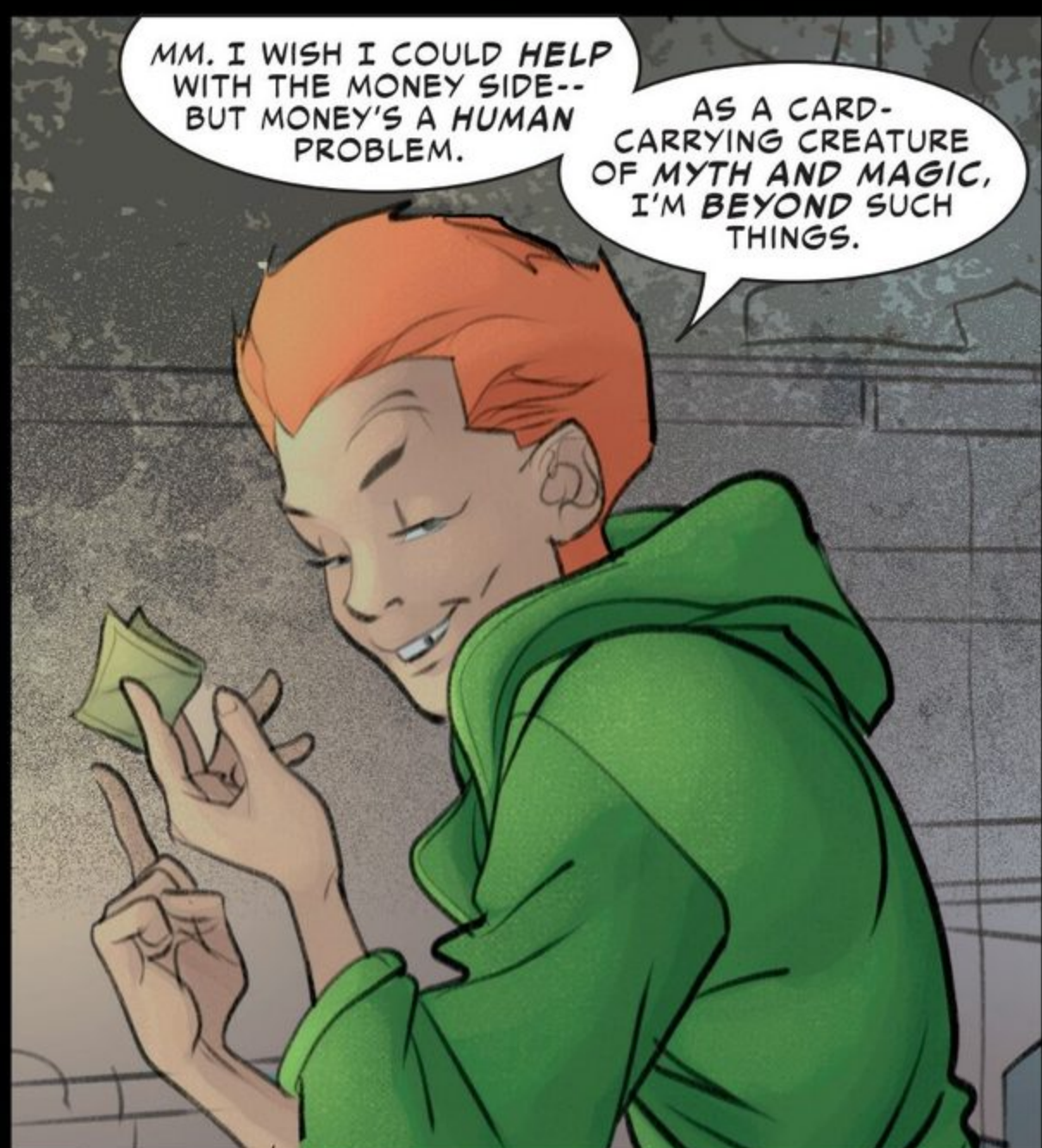
I CALLED FROM THE PAY PHONE, AND WE ARE TO ALL MEET IN A **WAREHOUSE** SOMEWHERE...



THIS ALL SOUNDS A LITTLE **SHADY**, SIG...

IT **DOES!** BUT LANDLORD BARRY HAS WARNED ME, WITH THE RENT.

MONEY IS A **PROBLEM**.



MM. I WISH I COULD HELP WITH THE MONEY SIDE-- BUT MONEY'S A **HUMAN** PROBLEM.

AS A CARD-CARRYING CREATURE OF **MYTH AND MAGIC**, I'M **BEYOND** SUCH THINGS.



IT IS FINE. IT WILL ALL BE FINE.

WORK IS **WORK**. I WILL FIND OUT WHAT THE JOB **IS** WHEN I GET THERE.

HOW **SHADY** CAN IT **BE**...?



FIRST THING
I NEED FROM YOU
ALL IS A **SIGNED**
NONDISCLOSURE
AGREEMENT!

BREATHE A
WORD OF THIS
AND ROXXON WILL
TAKE YOU TO
COURT!



AFTER THAT, WE'LL TAKE YOUR
NAMES, PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT,
BUS YOU OUT TO THE JOBSITE
AND WALK YOU PAST THE
PICKET LINE!

TAKE A
PEN, TAKE
A FORM!
LET'S GO!

PICKET
LINE...?

WAIT, WE'RE
STRIKEBREAKERS?



REPLACEMENT WORKERS,
PLEASE. THIS IS A PUBLIC
SERVICE--THERE'S A SCHEDULE
TO KEEP AND YOU ARE THE
FINE FOLKS WHO
KEEP IT.

I DON'T
WANNA GET IN A
CONFRONTATION
HERE--

THEN YOU
BETTER SIGN
THE FORM,
PAL.



GOOD MAN! YOU
GOT MY WORD,
MY FRIEND.

IF THE FOLKS
ON THAT LINE
BREATHE FUNNY?
CALL YOU A DIRTY
WORD EVEN?



THAT'LL BE
OUR EXCUSE TO
UTILIZE OUR **SECURITY**
CONSULTANTS
OVER HERE.

YEAH. WE'RE
REAL EAGER TO DO
OUR BIT FOR THE
COMMUNITY...

HEY!
PRINCESS!

WHAT ARE
YOU STARING
AT?



THAT
SYMBOL ON
YOUR ARM. I
KNOW IT.

YEAH?
GOLD STAR
FOR YOU, I
GUESS.

YOU KNOW
THE RUNE OF
THOR.



GOD OF **STRENGTH** AND
POWER. GOD OF THE
STORM THAT'S GONNA
WASH ALL THE
SCUM AWAY.



THAT...
DOES NOT SEEM
RIGHT...

AW, DON'T
IT? TOO
BAD.

BACK IN
LINE, LITTLE
MAN.



WHY ARE
THE WORKERS
STRIKING?



I'LL
HANDLE THIS
GUY, OKAY?

LOOK,
YOU GOT YOUR
PRIDE. I GET
IT.

MY **GRAMPS**
WORKED THE
HIGH STEEL FOR
FOUR BUCKS AN HOUR,
EIGHTEEN HOURS A
DAY. THERE WAS A
MAN, RIGHT?



BUT **THOSE** WEAK SISTERS...IT'LL
BE **MONEY** OR **HURT FEELINGS**
OR SOME **SAFETY CRAP**.
ANY EXCUSE NOT
TO WORK.

DOES IT
MATTER **WHAT**
THE EXCUSE IS
THIS TIME?



NO.
NOT TO
ME.

I WILL
NOT TAKE THIS
WORK.



HUH?

I WILL
NOT DO HARM TO A
STRANGER FOR MY
OWN GAIN.

WHAT
WOULD THAT
MAKE ME?



HOW WE
TREAT OTHERS
IS HOW WE ARE
TREATED. SHOULD
THEY **STARVE** SO
WE CAN BE **FED**?
IS THAT
RIGHT?

WHEN OUR
TURN COMES,
WHAT WILL WE BE
TOLD? THAT WE ARE
WEAK FOR WISHING
SAFETY? **FAIR**
MONEY FOR **FAIR**
WORK?

IS IT WEAK
TO WISH FOR
DIGNITY...?



YOU GOT A BIG MOUTH, SWEDISH FISH--

EASY!

LOOK, YOU DON'T LIKE IT? SO HIT THE BRICKS, BUDDY.



THAT IS FINE. I WOULD NOT STAY.

NOBODY NEEDED THE SPEECH, @##%!

EVERYBODY ELSE IS REAL HAPPY!



NOT ME.

YEAH, I'M OUTTA HERE, MAN. THIS WHOLE THING STINKS.

IS ANY OF THIS EVEN LEGAL...?

HEY! HEY! GET BACK HERE!

I'LL REMEMBER YOU! I'LL REMEMBER YER FACES!



SHOULDA LET ME, MERLE.

THERE'S A TIME AND A PLACE, MITCH.

'COURSE, IF A COUPLE OF YOUR BOYS WERE TO FOLLOW THAT GUY...PERSUADE HIM TO KEEP IT ZIPPED IN THE FUTURE...



SURE. KEEP IT ZIPPED...

...RIGHT INTO A BODY BAG.

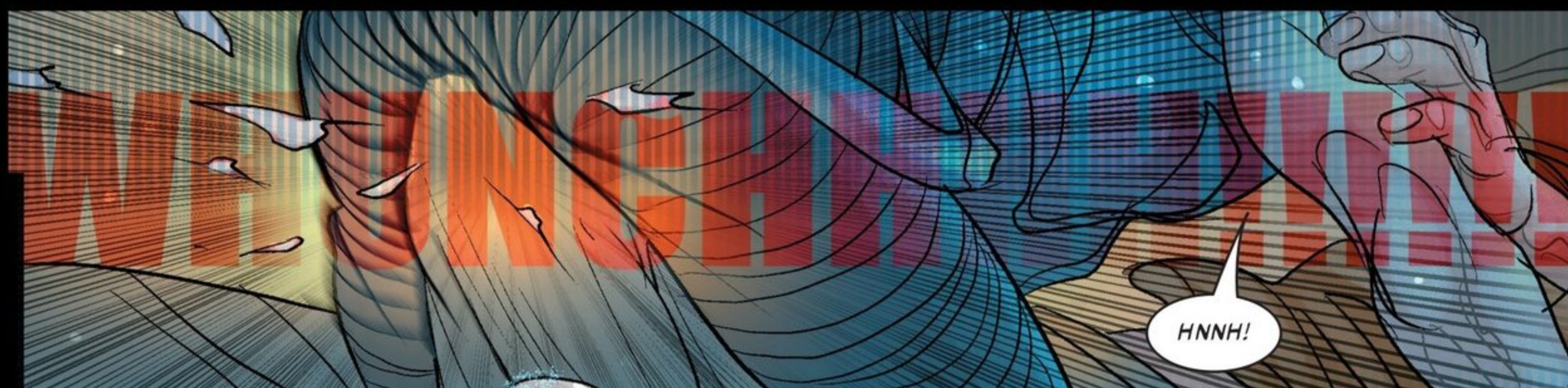
CRACK













--RIP YOUR
FACE OFF
YOUR--



@##%,
YOU...YOU
JUST...



WHO
ARE YOU?
HUH?

WHO
THE HELL
ARE YOU?



DID YOU NOT SAY
THOR WAS ANGRY?
THAT THOR WISHED
TO PUNISH THE
UNRIGHTEOUS?

THEN
TELL YOUR
FRIENDS...

...THAT
THOR
IS COMING.



NO GODS, NO MASTERS

AL EWING
WRITER

PASQUAL FERRY
ARTIST

MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

ALEX ROSS
COVER ARTIST

**JEFFREY BROWN; PASQUAL FERRY & MATT HOLLINGSWORTH;
PATRICK GLEASON; DAVID MARQUEZ & RACHELLE ROSENBERG;
JOE QUESADA & RICHARD ISANOVE; J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & SABINE RICH**
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

DANNY KHAZEM ASSOCIATE EDITOR **WIL MOSS** EDITOR **C.B. CEBULSKI** EDITOR IN CHIEF
THOR CREATED BY **STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY**

IF THEY BE WORDY

Let's begin again.

You hold in your hands issue #1 of a new Thor comic. Does that tell the whole story?

Let's begin again.

You hold in your hands issue #26 of **THE IMMORTAL THOR**, a three-act story about Marvel's version of the Norse God of Thunder, which now enters Act Two. At the end of the first act, Thor met his fate and died, sacrificed to power a spell by his sibling Loki. The Gods have been too long in autumn, Loki said, and there must be a winter--and now the greatest of the Gods is dead, and everything has changed. The Asgardians are trapped in the nine realms that remain after Midgard was cut off, seemingly forever severed from the mortals they once called friends.

What will become of them? What Tales of Asgard will be told? And does that tell the whole story?

Let's begin again.

You hold in your hands issue #787 of **THOR**, a character whose stories have been published continuously by Marvel since June of 1962, barring a very brief fallow period during the 2000s. Hundreds of creators have turned their hands to detailing his adventures, including the great Pasqual Ferry, who drew one of my favorite of the more recent runs and rejoins us now to deliver some of the most vibrant, action-packed and downright charming art I've seen in a while. I said in the last one of these that I like Thor best when he smiles. Pasqual draws a very nice smile.

Does that tell the whole story?

Let's begin again.

There have been thousands of tales told of the Norse God of Thunder. Many can be read in the original eddas--though many more from those days have been lost to time--and they've inspired new tales of Thor right up to the present day, in prose, in poetry, in cinema...and in comics.

This is not one of them.

You hold in your hands the first issue of a new saga about a new hero, who finds himself at ground zero of a battle between strange forces he knows nothing about, fighting for his life and, perhaps, his soul. A hero with no powers, no lineage, not even a memory to call his own, in a story that begins right here in these pages, turns sharply in the middle and ends with an inevitable tragedy woven by uncaring fates. A man who walks the road of a God and pays a terrible price.

This is **THE MORTAL THOR** #1. Over time, we're going to tell Sigurd Jarlson's whole story.

But for now, let's begin again.

--Al Ewing

WE WANT YOUR LETTERS! TO SEE THEM ANSWERED BY AL EWING HIMSELF, WRITE US AT [MHEROES@MARVEL.COM](mailto:mheroes@marvel.com), AND BE SURE TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!

NEXT ISSUE:



WHO IS THE MAN CALLED THOR?

- The Thunder Gods were hired to teach a simple lesson--make trouble for Roxxon Construction, and they'll make trouble for you.
- Now somebody's targeting the bike gang where they live. Somebody who won't give up. Somebody calling himself "Thor."
- Somewhere in the city, a man with a hammer is getting to work.